



Wyoming Department of Education

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MEMORANDUM NO. 2010-048

TO: School District Superintendents
FROM: Jim McBride, Ed.D.
DATE: March 5, 2010
SUBJECT: Potential PAWS Assessment Delay

IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ IMMEDIATELY

NCS Pearson has provided new technology to administer the online portion of the PAWS which may be problematic to some districts. This technology may require some Wyoming school districts to delay the start times for online testing. Pearson representatives are currently in Wyoming working with WDE and district technology staff to address any problem.

A problem has been identified as districts have initiated work on the student tutorial. Some students taking the tutorial are encountering a screen which “freezes” the online session. Pearson is investigating the source of their TestNav 7.0 problem.

Some districts are able to complete the tutorial sessions without difficulty. As a result, WDE is making the following recommendations to districts:

1. District superintendents and PAWS building coordinators should consult with the district technology director to assess the readiness of a district to begin the online tests.
2. Districts that experience 100-percent success with the tutorial should proceed with PAWS testing according to the district schedule.
3. Any district that experiences a problem with the tutorial should delay online testing until you receive a green light from your Tech Director.
4. WDE will adjust the PAWS statewide testing window should it become necessary.

The technology problems do not impact PAWS-ALT or ACCESS for ELL assessment windows. For AYP purposes, the full academic year will remain October 1, 2009 through March 26, 2010.

WDE and Pearson are currently focused on correcting the technology problems. The failure to provide a working platform for the assessment will result in a

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claim of damages against Pearson, which will be addressed in the coming weeks.

For questions regarding technology, additional orders, PearsonAccess or TestNav, please contact: **Pearson Customer Support Center at 877-847-2920 or email at wyoming@support.pearson.com**. The Customer Support Center's hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 5:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Mountain Time. The WDE contact person is Melissa Irvine at mirvin@educ.state.wy.us or 307-777-8568.

JM:rew